

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 53 to 100 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 22, 23 to 25, 45 to 47, 49 and 50 to 52 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A communication apparatus for communicating electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet, the apparatus comprising:

~~means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and~~

determination means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database, in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed; and

communication means for ~~communicating the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto by performing communication pertaining to functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF);~~ in addition to the communication of the electronic mail data after the format of image data is determined by said determination means.

2. (Currently amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first connecting means for connecting to a local area network and a ~~and/or~~ second connecting means for connecting to a wide area network;

first communicating means for communicating ~~transmitting/receiving~~ electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet by one of said first and second connecting means; ~~[[and]]~~

second communicating means for performing facsimile communication by connecting to the wide area network by said second connecting means;[[,]]

determination means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database, in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed; and

control means for controlling said first communication means so as to perform ~~wherein~~ communication concerning functional information after the format of image data is determined by said determination means, ~~which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), is performed when said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.~~

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus with which said first communicating means communicates, electronic mail data is sent by said first communicating means by attaching image data corresponding to a baseline image data format standard which the communication partner is able to process.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus with which said first communicating means communicates, and if communication by said second communicating means is designated and a facsimile number of a receiving party is designated, said second communicating means communicates image data.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if during the communication by said first communicating means a communication error occurs in communication of image data and in communication pertaining to delivery confirmation, retransmission is performed by selecting a number of times of retransmission from a plurality of individually preset number of times of retransmission including zero, in accordance with contents of the communication error.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein no retransmission is performed if the contents of the communication error indicate that there is no destination address.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, electronic mail data describing information concerning communication error information is transmitted to said communication partner apparatus or a previously designated electronic mail address.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, electronic mail data having image data attached is transmitted to said communication partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communicating means, communication is performed in accordance with a designation of whether transmission of

electronic mail by attaching image data by a baseline image data format standard which the communication partner is able to process or retransmission is to be performed.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the baseline image data format standard is an MH coding system considered to be essential of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, by which a resolution in a main scan direction is 8 pels/mm, a resolution in a sub-scan direction is 3.85 lines/mm, and an original width is 208 mm of A4 size.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation are successively performed by a single call.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation are separately performed by at least two calls.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning

delivery confirmation are successively performed by a single call or separately performed by different calls.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein if connection to said first communicating means is a dial-up connection, a line is once disconnected to wait for timeout processing in communication, and timeout is selectively verified by recall.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein functional information of a destination apparatus is acquired by communication using one of said first and second communicating means, a database for holding a maximum capability supported by each function is registered or updated, and, if said first communicating means is to communicate data, the data is converted into a standard registered in said database and communicated.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein whether image data pertaining to said database is to be converted is set for each function item registered in said database.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein if an address of another party with respect to said first communicating means is input, display

information related to functional information is switched on an operation panel based on information in said database.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein if a communication error occurs in said first communicating means, said second communicating means communicates image data if communication by said second communicating means is designated and a telephone number of another party is set.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for acquiring function identification information of a transmission destination by looking up a database stored in connection with functional information in an electronic mail server connected by a dial-up connection.

21. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when said first communicating means is to perform communication concerning the functional information, of pieces of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, functional information pertaining to communication such as a handshake rate, a modem rate, a minimum transmission time, the presence/absence of error correction mode, and the presence/absence of G4 function need not be exchanged.

22. (Currently amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for communicating ~~transmitting/receiving~~ electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; [[and]]

determination means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database; and

means for performing communication of functional information by said first communicating means after the format of image data is determined by said determination means, and sending electronic mail by attaching image data by one of image [[the]] standards which a communication partner is able to process of an image defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) if a communication error occurs when said first communicating means communicates electronic mail data having image data attached.

23. (Currently amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for communicating transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

designation means for designating an image format including a resolution of image data; [[and]]

determination means for determining the image format with reference to a database and the designated image format;

functional information communication means for communicating functional information on the determined image format; and

~~means for requesting functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), pertaining to the designated image format, of another party;~~

control means for controlling said functional information communication means
so as not to perform communication of the ~~wherein~~ functional information of the other party is
not requested if the designated image format is an image format defined by the TIFF.

24. (Currently amended) A communication apparatus comprising:

first communicating means for communicating ~~transmitting/receiving~~ electronic
mail data by connecting to the Internet; [[and]]

determination means for determining a format of image data with reference to a
database;

communication means for performing communication concerning functional
information after the format of image data is determined by said determination means; and

an identifier for relating pieces of electronic mail concerning pieces of functional
information, ~~which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File~~
~~Format (TIFF)~~, pertaining to the same process to each other, when said first communicating
means is to communicate electronic mail data having image data attached.

25. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program
for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of communicating ~~transmitting/receiving~~
electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; [[and]]

a second communication procedure of performing facsimile communication by
connecting to a wide area network; and

a determination procedure of determining a format of image data with reference to a database,

wherein[[,]] communication concerning functional information,~~which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF),~~ is executed after the format of image data is determined if said first communication procedure is to communicate electronic mail data having image data attached thereto.

26. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising sending electronic mail data by said first communication procedure by attaching image data corresponding to a baseline image data format standard, if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus.

27. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising communicating image data by said second communication procedure, if there is no response to the communication concerning functional information from a communication partner apparatus performed by said first communication procedure and if communication by said second communication procedure and a facsimile number of another party are designated.

28. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising performing retransmission, if during the communication by said first communication procedure a communication error occurs in communication of image data and in communication pertaining to delivery confirmation, by selecting a number of times of retransmission from a

plurality of numbers of times of retransmission including zero, which are individually set in advance, in accordance with the contents of the communication error.

29. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 28, further comprising performing no retransmission if the contents of the communication error indicate that there is no destination address.

30. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising transmitting, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, electronic mail data describing information concerning communication error information to said communication partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

31. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 30, further comprising transmitting, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, electronic mail data having image data attached to said communication partner apparatus or to a previously designated electronic mail address.

32. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising performing communication, if a communication error occurs during the communication by said first communication procedure, in accordance with a designation of whether transmission of electronic mail by attaching image data by a baseline image format standard or retransmission is to be performed.

33. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 32, further comprising performing communication such that the baseline image format standard is an MH coding system considered to be essential of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, by which a resolution in a main scan direction is 8 gels/mm, a resolution in a sub-scan direction is 3.85 lines/mm, and an original width is 208 mm of A4 size.

34. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising successively performing communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation by a single call, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

35. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising separately performing communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation by at least two calls, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

36. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising successively performing or separately performing communication concerning functional information, communication of a text, and communication concerning delivery confirmation by a single call or by different calls, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

37. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 34, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

38. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 34, further comprising once disconnecting a line to wait for timeout processing in communication and selectively verifying the timeout by recall, if connection by said first communication procedure is a dial-up connection.

39. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising acquiring functional information of a destination apparatus by communication using one of said first and second communication procedures, registering or updating a database for holding a maximum capability supported by each function, and, if communication is to be performed by said first communication procedure, converting an image standard designated by a user into a standard registered in said database on the basis of information of said database, and communicating the image.

40. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 39, further comprising setting whether image data pertaining to said database is to be converted for each function item registered in said database.

41. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 39, further comprising switching a display on an operation panel related to functional information based on information in said database, if an address of another party is input in said first communication procedure.

42. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, communicating image data by said second communication procedure, if a communication error occurs in said first communication procedure and if communication by said second communication procedure is designated and a telephone number of another party is set.

43. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, further comprising acquiring function identification information of a transmission destination by looking up a database stored in connection with functional information in an electronic mail server connected by a dial-up connection.

44. (Previously presented) The storage medium according to claim 25, not exchanging, of pieces of functional information defined by ITU-T T.30, functional information pertaining to communication such as a handshake rate, a modem rate, a minimum transmission time, the presence/absence of error correction mode, and the presence/absence of G4 function, when communication concerning functional information is to be performed by said first communication procedure.

45. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of communicating transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; [[and]]

a determination procedure of determining a format of image data with reference to a database; and

a procedure of, if a communication error occurs while electronic mail data having image data attached thereto is communicated and communication of functional information is performed by said first communication procedure after the format of image data is determined, sending electronic mail by attaching the image data by one of image [[the]] standards which another party is able to process of an image defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).

46. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising storing a program for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of communicating transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;

a designation procedure of designating an image format including a resolution of image data; [[and]]

a determination procedure of determining the image format with reference to a database and the designated image format;

a functional information communication procedure of communicating functional information on the determined image format; and

a procedure of controlling said functional information communication procedure
so as not to perform communication of the requesting functional information, pertaining to the
designated image format, of the other party, and not to request functional information, which is
functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), of the
other party if the determined designated image format that another party is able to process when
the functional information is communicated after the image format is determined by said
determination procedure is an image format which is defined by the TIFF.

47. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program
for causing a computer to execute a program comprising the steps of:

a first communication procedure of communicating transmitting/receiving
electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; [[and]]

a determination procedure of determining a format of image data with reference to
a database;

a communication procedure of performing communication concerning functional
information after the format of image data is determined by said determination procedure; and

a procedure of, when electronic mail data having image data attached is to be
communicated by said first communication procedure, relating electronic mail concerning pieces
of functional information, ~~which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged~~
~~Image File Format (TIFF), pertaining to the same process, electronic mail of a text, and~~
electronic mail concerning delivery confirmation, to each other.

48. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said wide area network is one of PSTN and ISDN.

49. (Currently amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:
a first communication step of communicating ~~transmitting/receiving~~ electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; [[and]]
a determination step of determining a format of image data with reference to a database; and
a step of performing communication of functional information in said first communicating step after the format of image data is determined in said determination step, and
sending, if a communication error occurs while electronic mail having image data attached is communicated in said first communication step, the electronic mail by attaching the image data by one of image [[the]] standards which a communication partner is able to process ~~of an image defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF).~~

50. (Currently amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:
a first communication step of communicating ~~transmitting/receiving~~ electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet;
a designation step of designating an image format including a resolution of image data; [[and]]
a determination step of determining the image format with reference to a database and the designated image format; and

a functional information communication step of communicating functional information on the determined image format

~~a step of requesting functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) pertaining to the designated image format, of another party,~~

wherein if the determined ~~designated~~ image format is an image format that another party is able to process when the functional information is communicated after the image format is determined in said determination step, communication of the ~~defined by the TIFF;~~ functional information ~~of the other party~~ is not performed requested.

51. (Currently amended) A communication method of communicating electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet, the method comprising the steps of:

a determination step of determining a format of image data with reference to a database, in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed;

~~transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet; and~~
a communication step of performing communication concerning functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), when electronic mail data having facsimile-format image data attached thereto is communicated; in addition to the communication of the electronic mail data after the format of image data is determined in said determination step.

52. (Currently amended) A communication system for communication electronic mail data by a plurality of communication apparatuses connected to the Internet, comprising:

means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed between the plurality of communication apparatus;

~~means for transmitting/receiving electronic mail data by a plurality of communication apparatuses connected to the Internet; and~~

~~means for performing communication concerning functional information, which is functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), when electronic mail data having facsimile-format image data attached is communicated between said communication apparatuses; in addition to the communication of the electronic mail data after the format of image data is determined.~~

53. to 100. (Canceled)